AS GOD'S DEAR BELOVED CHILDREN.

Eph.5:1-2 Be ye therefore imitators of God as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you.

Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.

The picture of little children following and imitating their parents

If we are to act towards God as children, He must be to us a father

If God, to us, is fate, we cannot be to Him as dear children.

If God is so all-righteous and pure, demanding purity and perfection in everyone inexorably: Children do not take to long-faced stern-looking strangers.

If we are to be as children, God must be to us full of love and compassion, full of self-sacrifice and patience, like our mothers and fathers only infinitely more so.

Paul writing to the newly founded churches in Asia, urging their members to be dear children of God. And as dear children we look up to God as our father and are thus led back to the Lord's Prayer which teaches us to pray, "Our Father". Our indivisdaul personalities are made to respond to the infinite creative personality of God.

Hard for some to recognize the personality of God because they cannot see God in form like unto that of the human body. God is Spirit.
The man with a crushed face. The same man, but, oh, so different'. Personality expressed in wrtings. God expresses himself in all creation.

How can we follow God as beloved children? By walking in love.
As Christ lives His life in love, ministering to all by its powers, and making Love the test of character and admission into eternal life, so we are to live our lives in love.
This is not figuratively speaking, but literally true. Love is the very atmosphere of the soul which lives in God the Father.
Scientists going to view unusual occurrences in the heavens, such as total eclipse of the sun or the transit of Venus across the surface of the sun. Some were ready when the time came but there was a storm where they were located and they could see nothing of the heavens. Others obtained partial views thru the clouds as they parted momentarily. A few had unobstructed view and took their observations. All of them had their instruments along and were equally prepared. It was the atmosphere which determined the success of their work. In the Xn life, also, atmosphere is everything. They that would see God must have the atmosphere thru which alone God can be seen. God, the

Father, dwells in love, and if we would see God, imitate and follow Him, we must live our lives in the atmosphere of love.

Some who believe that it is the possession of the fundamental doctrines that determines our salvation. Doctrines are fundamental to systems of thought. Armenian doctrines are fundamental to the Armenian theology. Calvanistic doctrines are fundamental to the Calvanistic system, Catholoc doctrines are fundamental to the Catholic system; but none of these are fundamental to Xn living. The atmosphere of God's love is the one fundamental requirement of Xn living. To be imitators of God as His dear children you must walk in His love even as children in the home walk in the love of their mother and father.

My experience in seminary. Picking God to pieces in theology. Like painting on one canvas an eye, on another a chin, on another a nose, an another a forehead, on another an ear, etc., then trying to see the face of God by looking at the different pieces of nanvas! Like dissecting a flowere and trying to persuade myself that the dissected flowers was the real flower and that the growing bloom on the bush was as nothing except when plucked and pulled to pieces. It is well to dissect flowers for our understanding of them but not for our cultivation of them. It is well to analize God in the light of the scriptures for our better under-